

SUPPORTING HOMELESS FAMILIES

WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?



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WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHO IS HOMELESS?



EARLY CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS



A person in the U.S. is most likely to experience homelessness in the **first year of life**.¹

A person is next most likely to experience homelessness at ages 1–5.¹

Children under age 6

Total population²

23,959,552

Estimated number experiencing homelessness³

1,260,254

or

1 in 19 children



INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

- Early intervention services must be provided to all eligible infants and toddlers, including those who are homeless
 - *IDEA Part C Statute- 20 U.S.C. §§1434(1) and 1435(a)(2)*
- Homeless children means children who meet the definition given the term homeless children and youths in section 725 42 U.S.C. 11434(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.
 - *IDEA Part C Regulations- Sec. 303.17 Homeless children*

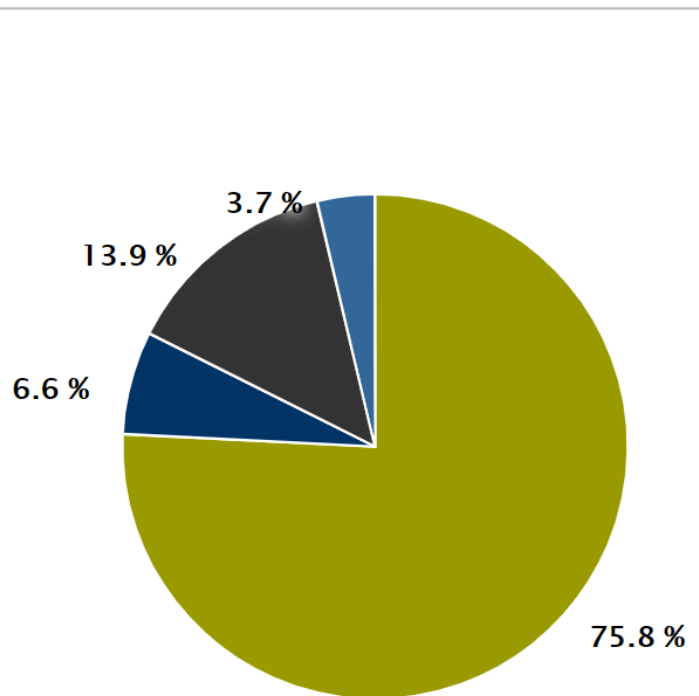
MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

42 U.S.C. § 11434A(2)

- The term “homeless children and youth”—
- A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and
- B. includes —
 - i. children and youths who are **sharing the housing** of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; **are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds** due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in **emergency or transitional shelters**; or are **abandoned in hospitals**;
 - ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...;
 - iii. children and youths who are living in **cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations**, or similar settings; and
 - iv. migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS CHILDREN/YOUTH ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY TYPE OF PRIMARY NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE

SY 2016-2017



- Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care (13.9%)
- Doubled-up (e.g., living with another family) (75.8%)
- Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building) (3.7%)
- Hotels/Motels (6.6%)

DETERMINING HOMELESS STATUS

- <https://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Eligibility-Flowchart-Update-2017.pdf>
- https://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/SRQ-English_PDF-HomelessStatus_2017-1.pdf
- http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/library/is/forms/mis_140.pdf
- https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/policy/louisiana-student-residency-questionnaire---english.pdf?sfvrsn=a8918d1f_12

DOUBLED-UP: QUESTIONS TO ASK

- **Why did the family move in together? Was it for mutual benefit or due to a crisis or other precipitating event?**
- **Is there a plan for the household to remain intact over a long term, or is it a short term situation?**
- **Where would the family be if they were not able to stay where they are? In a clearly homeless situation or in another apartment or house?**
- **Does everyone have a bed to sleep in? Is the plumbing and electric service safe? Is the housing otherwise adequate?**
- **Is the family being added to the lease, or have they signed a lease?**
- **Does the homeowner or renter have a legal right to force the family to leave without cause if they choose to do so?**

DOUBLED UP- QUESTIONS I ASK

- If you had a fight with (your mom, your friend, etc.), could they kick you out?
- If and when you could afford to live on your own, would you stay here or move out?
- If you're renting, does the landlord/homeowner know you're living there? Do you have a lease?
- Do you have access to a kitchen, full bathroom, and enough space for your family?

SELECTED MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT PROVISIONS

- Immediate enrollment
- Cannot require immunizations, proof of residency, etc.
- Placement in school of origin or local school if parents prefer and in child's best interest
- School districted provides transportation
- Access to comparable services, including early intervention under Part C of IDEA

McKinney-Vento Sec. 722(g)(6)(A)(3)

- Have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools

McKinney-Vento Sec. 722(g)(6)(A)(2)

MCKINNEY-VENTO AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- Any state receiving a Part C grant must make early intervention services available to infants and toddlers with disabilities who are homeless and their families (20 U.S.C. § 1434(I))
 - That's every US state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

MCKINNEY-VENTO AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- McKinney-Vento applies to school aged children
- Children ages 0-5 are only eligible if they are in a public early childhood programs funded through tax dollars or other public funds
- Examples include:
 - Preschool programs operated or administered by the LEA and considered mandatory under state law;
 - Head Start programs receiving funding from the LEA or for which the LEA is the grant recipient;
 - Preschool **special education services operated or funded by the LEA or mandated under IDEA;**
 - Preschool programs and services administered or funded by the LEA thru the use of Title I or similar government grants; or
 - Home-based early childhood educational services funded and administered by an LEA.

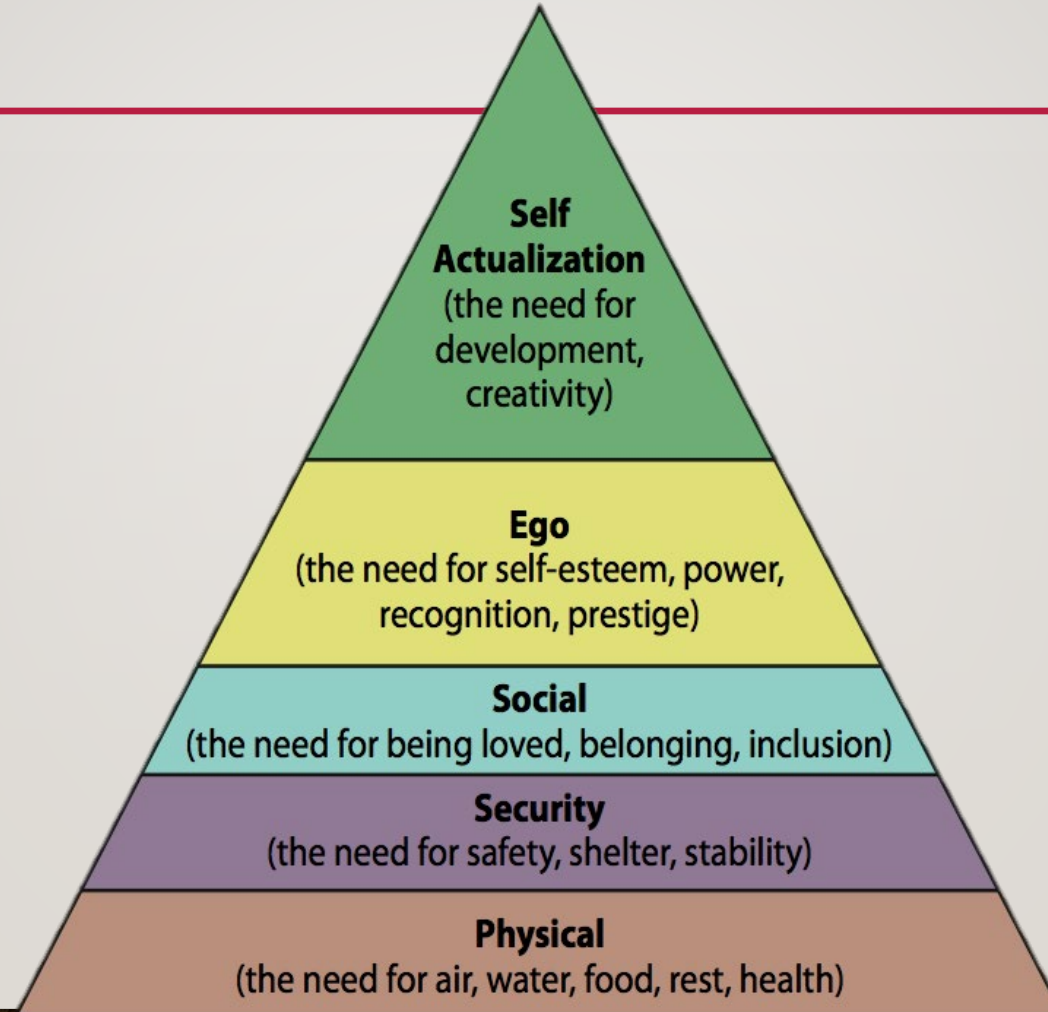
MCKINNEY-VENTO AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- We represent a little known, tiny sliver of the students eligible for McKinney-Vento
- YOU may need to educate the local homeless liaison on your student's eligibility and needs

BARRIERS TO RECEIVING SERVICES

- Basic needs trump hearing/language/development
- Loss of contact
- No location for a home visit
- Inconsistent attendance at home visits
- Transient, may leave area
- No access to medical appointments, audiology, therapy, hearing aids
- Lack of transportation

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



OVERCOMING BARRIERS



BARRIER- BASIC NEEDS

- Meet physical and security needs before other goals
- Make yourself useful to the family where they're at so they stay connected
- Find local resources to pass on to families. Do the legwork for them and give them specifics. Check:
 - School district liaison
 - Local homeless shelters
 - Wraparound programs
 - Religious organizations and non-profits
 - 2-1-1

COMMON NEEDS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES

- Emergency shelter
- Food
- Affordable long term housing
- Medical care
- Employment
- Child care
- Mental health support
- Domestic violence resources
- Legal help
- Clothing
- Laundry
- Showers
- Cash (diapers, toys, toiletries, etc.)

BARRIER- DIFFICULT TO CONTACT

- Free phones/data through Lifeline
- Social networking and apps
- Just show up
- Identify neighbors or friends with phones
- Mail (can be PO box, local shelter, or “general mail” at post office)

BARRIER- HOME VISIT LOCATION

- Social services (food bank, WIC office, soup kitchen, etc.)
- Your school/clinic
- Before or after medical appointments
- Public spaces:
 - Library
 - Community Center
 - McDonalds (with Play Place)
 - Mall
 - Park
 - Children's museum
 - Church
 - Laundromat
 - Grocery Store

BARRIER- INCONSISTENT ATTENDANCE

- Stay in contact!
- Be flexible
- Schedule during or after other known appointments
- Call 30 minutes before appointment, join them where they are

BARRIER- TRANSIENT

- Continue with them if at all feasible
 - Refer to McKinney-Vento if you need to travel outside of your boundaries
 - You are “school of origin”
- If they are too far or want to change services:
 - Do the legwork!
 - Connect with new service providers, talk directly with new providers
 - Consider joining in the first meeting if at all possible

BARRIER- NO ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

- Financial access
 - Help them get signed up for Medicaid
 - If no hearing aid coverage:
 - <https://www.infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/docs/FundingHearingAidsforChildren2.pdf>
 - Set up your own loaner/donor bank at your program

BARRIER- TRANSPORTATION

- Medical:
 - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (through Medicaid)
- Educational:
 - McKinney Vento required transportation
 - Funded by school district
- Paratransit
- Partnerships with local public transportation
- Lyft Community Grants

BENEFITS OF IDENTIFYING AS A HOMELESS FAMILY

- Head Start / Early Head Start
- Housing
- Community-based programs

RESOURCES

- Your state coordinator: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SC-Contact-list.pdf>
- National Center for Homeless Education: <https://nche.ed.gov/>
- McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series on IDEA: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/idea.pdf>
- McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series on transportation: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/transportation.pdf>
- US Department of Education Questions and Answers on Special Education and Homelessness: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/spec-ed-homelessness-q-a.pdf>
- Summary of McKinney Vento Act: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/summary.pdf>